

Early Literacy Success Competitive Grant Application

I. Purpose

Provide funds to implement initiatives which focus on early literacy success throughout Vermont and support the Comprehensive Plan for Early Literacy Success (the Plan).

II. Background

In 1997 Vermont's Equal Education Act (Act 60) called for the development of a "plan for establishing a comprehensive system of services for early education in the first three grades to ensure that all students learn to read by the end of third grade." Accordingly, such a plan was developed by a collaborative and representative team, and approved by the Vermont State Board of Education in January, 1998. Since that time, the plan served to guide the work of not only the Vermont Department of Education but also of several other partners (agencies and collaborating organizations) engaged in fostering early reading success.

In order to achieve the goal that all children learn to read by the end of third grade, a comprehensive system of services must include not only the first three grades of school but also those preceding years, from birth through kindergarten. A review of research in early literacy and some recent national initiatives support this rationale.

The Plan is intended to be succinct and includes actions that are essential to reaching the goal of early reading success for children. When available, funds can be awarded through competitive grants to help reach this goal.

III. Award Amounts

Total dollars may vary but the average total amount available for granting has been approximately \$100,000 per year.

IV. Eligible Applicants

Individuals, educational and nonprofit organizations engaged in promoting early literacy success are eligible to apply if the goals match one or more of the elements contained in the Comprehensive Plan for Early Literacy Success.

V. Proposal Requirements

The narrative section of the proposal must be double-spaced and the font used must not be smaller than 12-point. The total number of pages shall not exceed 10 exclusive of the appendices. Proposals must include the following sections:

A. Funding Request Cover Sheet and Assurances

Cover page and assurances are attached.

B. Program Narrative

1. Needs Assessment and audience

The project description should include evidence of a needs assessment and how the project is directly related to the needs. Describe how the project aligns with the Plan and the Vermont Early Learning Standards and/or Vermont Framework of Standards and Learning Opportunities. Please identify items from the plan(s). (http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/pgm_earlyed/pubs.html <http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/pubs/framework.html>).

2. Scope of Work

A proposal must clearly describe the goals and objectives for the project and how the project connects to the Plan. The project description should include a timeline of implementation as well as indicate the population being served. Include information concerning the number of children being directly served and the regions of the state that will benefit from this project. Each application should provide a description of methods and materials used for the project and explain why they are appropriate for the purpose of the proposal. If partners are involved in this grant this section should include a narrative of the roles of the partners and their duties and responsibilities related to the goals and objectives of the project.

3. Evaluation Plan

Include information about how the effectiveness of the project will be evaluated at the end of the grant period. All awardees will be expected to submit a report at the end of the funding cycle that details the progress of the initiative and information of how the money was used.

C. Budget Justification

The budget justification should clearly be tied to the requirements of the project. The budget narrative should describe the basis for determining the amounts shown on the project budget page. All proposals should include provision for evaluation of the activities at the end of the grant period. The budget justification may be formatted in a table or narrative style and may be single spaced.

D. Appendix:

If appropriate, this section may include research supporting the project, description of materials included in the budget, or other supporting documentation.

**Vermont Department of Education
Early Literacy Success**

Funding Request Cover Sheet

Name of Organization requesting funds:

Name of contact and position/title with organization:

Mailing address:

Phone: E-mail:

Initial request for funds: Reapplication: Yes ☐ No ☐

1 year project: ☐ Multi-year project: ☐

Project Title:

Project start date: End date:

Project Overview (Briefly describe project and goals):

Budget amounts:	Grant requested:	\$
	Funds from other sources:	\$
	Total project cost	\$

Required Assurances:

Each application must contain assurances that:

- The program will take place in a safe and easily accessible facility.
- The program was developed and will be carried out in active collaboration by eligible schools, parents, and other entities such as community-based organizations, including faith-based organizations, institutions of higher education, or a consortium of such entities.
- Funds under the program will be used to increase the level of State, local and other non-Federal funds that would, in the absence of these Federal funds, be made available for authorized programs and activities, and will not supplant Federal, State, local, or non-Federal funds.
- Upon request, provide the Vermont Department of Education with access to records and other sources of information that may be necessary to determine compliance with appropriate state laws and regulations.